

February 4, 1976

SENATOR WILTSE: It would possibly do so, but it would not vary in excess of three inches normally.

SENATOR NICHOL: Then if you had a full load in the back of your truck plus a full gas tank would that make some variance?

SENATOR WILTSE: It possibly would, yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Then my question is this, how would a patrolman know what the level of your rear bumper should be and if you were in violation? Would they have a little book with them that says a 1972 Mercury, or whatever, should be 22 inches to the bottom of the bumper or 28 inches to the top of the bumper? If it were, for any reason, above or below three inches of what that should be then he had a right to give you a ticket. Is that correct?

SENATOR WILTSE: All he has to do is take a ruler and measure the front bumper and the rear and see whether or not they're in harmony.

SENATOR NICHOL: OK, thank you.

SENATOR WILTSE: They should be comparable.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Do you wish any final statement Senator? Oh, wait, excuse me. Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you Mr. President. A statement by Senator Nichol just generated a question on the spur of the moment. Senator Wiltse, if you load a pickup with an unusually large amount of whatever, that isn't illegal as far as weight goes, and you cause the back end to sag so that the vehicle is more than three inches out of level would this be in violation? I know we're getting pretty technical, but we don't.... I'm sure that there have been some concerned questions raised that we don't want to get into something that borders on the ridiculous.

SENATOR WILTSE: In your particular case I presume what you do is put overloads on and you take and control your height by an overload. However, it is possible that that could be true. You shouldn't be loading your vehicle to such an extreme load as that.

SENATOR DICKINSON: It isn't very difficult to do with a farm pickup that you go to town and get a ton of feed on. It's not an illegal load in any sense of the word, but it certainly will make the rear end sag a little.

SENATOR WILTSE: I'm quite positive, though, that if you have a half ton pickup and you put a three ton load on it you're going to put overloads on it of some kind. That will stop that point. It will not vary beyond the three inch limit.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you.